(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government had any plans to liberalise the licensing rules and by when Government propose to come up with IIIrd phase auctions?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bidding of frequencies for Phase II of FM radio broadcasting has been conducted between 6.1.06 to 3.2.06. Out of 337 channels across 91 cities in the country put on bidding, 280 channels have been successfully bid. The bids have yielded revenue of Rs. 1157.35 crore. Details of city-wise successful bids are given in the website of the Ministry of I & B *www.mib.nic.in*

(c) At present, there is no proposal to further liberalize the licensing rules, Policy for Phase III of FM Radio has not been formulated as yet.

Superstition in TV serials

1424. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government believe in superstition in all respects;

(b) if not, whether it is a fact that on every Tuesday at 10.00 P.M. and on every Wednesday at 10.00 P.M. serials "AAP BEETI" and "YEH HAVAYEN" are broadcast on Doordarshan's National Channel (DD1);

(c) if so, how far such serials have an adverse effect on the young ones in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to prohibit such superstitious serials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that presently the serial 'Yeh Havayen' is being telecast on DD-1 channel, which is a work of fiction and does not encourage superstition.

(c) and (d) Programmes of all satellite television channels, transmitted/ retransmitted through the cable network services, are required to adhere to programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, *inter alia*, prescribes that no programme can be carried in the cable service, which encourages superstition or blind belief,

and programmes unsuitable for children must not be carried in the cable service at times when the largest numbers of children are viewing. The Government also issued an advisory to all the satellite television channels and Doordarshan to strictly adhere to the above provisions of the Code.

FM Channels operating in Bihar

†1425. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FM Channels being operated in Bihar;

(b) the total area covered by them;

(c) whether Government will start some more FM Channels in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Presently, three 6 kW FM transmitters are functioning at Patna, Sasaram and Purnea with an area coverage of 24.9%. Moreover, under Phase-II of the private FM broadcasting policy, there has been one successful bidder each in the two districts of Muzaffarpur and Patna for operation of private FM channels.

(c) and (d) Five new 10 kW FM transmitters are proposed during the Tenth Plan at Banka, Gaya, Madhubani, Motihari and Patna. However, implementation of the above schemes is subject to approval, funds availability and sanction of the required staff for operation and maintenance purposes.

Charges by cable operators

1426. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to fix uniform rate that has to be charged from the customers by cable operators in the Metros, District Head Quarters and Rural areas and also to fix the entertainment tax to be charged on cable operators and also to decide on the competent authority for the collection of Entertainment Tax;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.